



United States Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
United States Attorney

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Two District Men Sentenced to 9 Years in Prison

For Daytime Shooting on Basketball Court

WASHINGTON - Two District of Columbia men, 20-year old Edward Reid-Peeler, and 21-year old Dayontae James Duncan, were sentenced Tuesday, August 24 in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia by the Honorable Ann O'Regan Keary to over nine years in prison, announced U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. The sentence follows guilty pleas by both defendants on May 20, 2010, to one count of aggravated assault while armed and one count of possession of a firearm during the commission of a crime of violence.

According to evidence introduced at the plea hearing, at approximately 4 p.m. on April 16, 2009, the victim was playing basketball in the rear of Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School when the defendants walked onto the basketball court. Reid-Peeler first approached an individual who was standing next to the victim and pointed a gun at his chest. Duncan, who was standing off to the side, told Reid-Peeler, "No, not him - him," and pointed at the victim. In response, Reid-Peeler turned the gun on the victim, uttered words to the effect of "you snitching?" and then fired one shot at point-blank range.

The bullet struck the victim below the stomach and severed a major artery. The defendants fled the scene while the victim fell onto the basketball court. The victim survived the incident, but as a result of the shooting he suffered permanent injury, including nerve damage and cognitive impairment. Reid-Peeler was arrested at his house on July 15, 2009, and Duncan was arrested five days later.

The apparent motive for the shooting was that the defendants erroneously believed that the victim had cooperated with law enforcement authorities in connection with a homicide trial in

Prince George's County, Maryland. Duncan was an associate of the defendant in that homicide case and had even testified as an alibi witness in the trial, which resulted in a conviction. Reid-Peeler and Duncan shot the victim in an attempt to exact revenge.

In announcing the sentence, U.S. Attorney Machen expressed his appreciation to the Metropolitan Police Department, and particularly praised the work of Detective Timothy E. Francis. U.S. Attorney Machen also commended U.S. Attorney's Office Intelligence Specialist Lawrence Grasso for his help during the investigation. Finally, he praised Assistant U.S. Attorneys Suzanne Clement Libby, Todd Gee, and Michael Ortwein for their work investigating and prosecuting the case.

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